

American Humor.

Nowhere is brevity more the fashion than in the American newspaper. This art of condensation was evidently studied by the journalist who reported: "A colored gentleman went into a blacksmith's shop with his coat full of powder. He came out through the roof." This reminds us of a quarman who said he couldn't see any danger in smoking while he was handling powder. He can't see anything now. But for graphic illustration of the multum in parvo, what could beat the sign of the travelling dentist in the United States, which bore the startling announcement, "2nd pulp!"

Mirth and wit are combined in the following: A famous preacher remarked that it is possible for a man to be a Christian and belong to a brass band. But that it would be difficult for such a man's next door neighbor to be a Christian. Nothing makes a bad headed man madder than to be accused of never cleaning the horns out of the comb, says an American; and an old darky observed that "A man would be a heap better off if he was as particular about his whiskers as he is about his teeth." Some what satirical is the announcement that there is a man in New York who manufactures diamonds for actresses to wear. They are sold at so much a quart.

At a party a young lady began a song. "The autumn days have come, ten thousand leaves are falling." She began too high. "Ten thousand" she screamed and stopped. "Start her at five thousand!" cried an audience member.

A lady in a registry office observed: "I am afraid that that little girl won't do for a nurse; she is too small. I should hesitate to trust her with the baby." Clerk: "Her size, madam, we look upon as her greatest recommendation." Lady: "Indeed! But she is so very small." Clerk: "I know that she is diminutive; but you should remember that when she drops a baby it doesn't have very far to fall." Chambers' Journal.

Corn Cultivation.

The manner of cultivating corn, whether deep or shallow, is a subject of much thought and discussion; but it seems to depend very much upon a principle which exists everywhere, viz., that at first, and before the roots have spread through the rows, deep cultivation is useful; but afterward, as the roots spread through the soil, only the surface should be stirred. A most successful and large cultivation of corn in Central Illinois, upon a strong clay loam, but containing much humus, found that his best success was in plowing deeply the next corn during its early growth. He, therefore, used a narrow bull tongue, running deeper than the outer broader teeth of his cultivators. As the corn became large the teeth were near the middle of the rows. Thus the deep cultivation kept pace with the growth of the roots of the corn, and so the soil, as the roots filled the whole soil, the cultivation was superficial. His regular day's work for a team in the field was eight hours, but he kept the teams moving, and accomplished more work in a day than many who kept their team in a field 12 hours. Another peculiarity of his was that his teams might be found lying still while some of his neighbors were struggling through wet, pasty soil. Yet when the soil did come in condition for work his teams were in the field early and late, often doing twice the amount of his regular work in one day. Yet his teams never seem fatigued. His theory of cultivation and his labor were founded upon common sense.—New York Times.

Gordon's Antidote for the Apple.

Here is a story about General Gordon that has never yet appeared in print. The general entertained peculiar ideas concerning the Edenic apple by which mother Eve introduced "Death and all our woe" into the world. The constituent elements of this fruit, Gordon held to be present in the blood of every member of the human race up to the present day, and he contended that their virus could only be subdued and counteracted by frequent participation in the bread and wine of the sacrament. But so material a view of this rite did he take, that he thought the more a man could ingest in quantity of the consecrated food, the better would be his chances of expurgating from his physical organism the poisonous corpuscles of the forbidden fruit. Having seen that there would be but little or no opportunities of receiving the sacrament in Sudan, Gordon resolved to take as much as possible of the sacred elements before starting. He therefore occupied himself on the Saturday before his last Sunday in England in ascertaining the hours at which communion would be administered in the various churches within reach of the place where he was, and, rising early on the Sunday morning he went from church to church in turn, partaking of the sacrament in each, and thus received the elements some half dozen times in succession, beginning at 9 o'clock a. m., and ending at midnight.—London Truth.

Mysterious Influences.

"I'm going to tell you something that's true," said a Brooklyn man the other day. "You can believe it or not, but it's true. I have a cousin who went to Europe last year. While in France she died. Comparing time between France and America it must have been within an hour of her death that her mother, who was knitting in the sitting room at home, laid her knitting work in her lap and looked with a sort of stunted expression. 'Why! Alice is dead!' she said. 'Next day we got a despatch by cable saying she was dead.'"

"There was," said another member of the party, "a curious illustration of mind-reading, or spiritual telegraphy, or whatever you might like to call it, during the

war. You remember that the battle of Gettysburg was settled on the 3rd of July, though Lee lay on his arms expecting another attack on the 4th, and began his retreat that night. The surrender of Vicksburg occurred on the 4th. Gettysburg and Vicksburg are eight hundred miles apart, or perhaps more, and no telegraph message had been received at Gettysburg announcing the surrender of Vicksburg at that time. If there had been, it could hardly reach headquarters before sundown on the 4th. The Twelfth corps had been drawn up in line on the afternoon of the 4th with a view of changing position, and was standing at 'place rest,' when one of the soldiers exclaimed, 'Vicksburg's taken!' The word passed down the line, and cheer broke from the troops. That news and the certainty that Lee had sustained a severe defeat put new life into them. But when an attempt was made to trace the news to official sources it couldn't be done. That soldier 'felt it in his bones,' and had spoken right out. Next day dispatches arrived that the soldier had spoken the truth."

"Yes, these things are unaccountable," said a third speaker. The intuitions, or whatever they are, needn't be so important either. I remember that my father was sitting in his library one afternoon, when he took out his watch, looked at it, and said: 'E' will be here in ten minutes.' E was his brother in law, who lived in a neighboring town, and though he called over frequently, he was not expected that day. After he had spoken, my father seemed surprised at himself, and laughed a little awkwardly. My mother asked how he knew that E would be there, and he said he didn't know; he had spoken on the impulse of the moment. Sure enough, in ten minutes the bell rang. E was at the door. He had only come to dinner, and his visit was not important, but he had, somehow, projected his personality ahead of him."

Said a fourth: "There really is such a thing as seeing beyond the limit of human vision. I'll tell you a little circumstance that I can swear to, and then let's talk about something else. When I was 16 years old I had no more idea of going to London than I had of going to Nova Zembla. I knew practically nothing about the city. One night I dreamed that I was there in a park facing some public buildings, and over the trees and roofs at the right were the towers of Westminster abbey and parliament buildings. That night an important letter was on its way summoning me to London. I arrived there as the man who had written the letter was leaving his house for a walk. I saw my trunk safely stowed and went along with him. We strolled out to St. James' park to hear a band play. At one point in the park I looked behind me, and there was the picture I had seen in my dream—trees, towers, public buildings and all. Before I went there I hadn't the slightest idea how the city was built. For aught I knew St. Paul's, Westminster abbey, Temple bar and the British museum stood in a row on one street. How did I manage in a dream to see those buildings east of St. James' park just in the positions and size, shape, and color that they really were?"

What the Newspaper Does.

Rev. John Rhey Thompson, of New York, says: The crowning marvel of our modern civilization is the printing press. It is impossible to overestimate its vast power. It propagates and diffuses information. It gives wings to knowledge, so that on a breath of morning it flies everywhere to bless and elevate. I stand in growing wonder in the presence of the printing press. It lays its hands upon the telegraph and speedily gathers news from all parts of the world, and acute editors and ubiquitous reporters and rapid compositors and flying steam presses commit to paper a faithful photograph of what is going on in the world. And yonder stands the iron horse, with breath of flame and ribs of steel, ready to go to remote portions of the country, dropping packages of the daily papers on the way. Yes, it is a mighty engine for good and a mighty engine, too, for evil. Like all the blessings of this trial life of ours, it is not an unmixed blessing.

Comfort at Home.

Put sell last. Be prompt at every meal. Take little annoyances out of the way. When good comes to anyone, rejoice. When anyone suffers, speak a word of sympathy. Tell neither of your own faults nor those of others. Have a place for everything and everything in its place. Hide your own troubles, but watch to help others out of theirs. Take hold of the knob and shut, not slam the door. If the door squeaks apply the drop of oil at once. Never interrupt any conversation, but wait patiently for your turn to speak. Look for beauty in everything and take a cheerful view of every event. Carefully clean the mud from your feet on entering the house. Always speak politely and kindly to servants. When inclined to give an angry answer, press your lips together and say the alphabet. When pained by an unkind word or deed, ask yourself, "Have I never done ill and desired forgiveness?"—Soldier and Servant.

Her Strong Points.

"Cruiser is married, I hear." "Yes, and he's made a downright good match too, I can tell you." "Glad to hear it, but in what way is he to be envied? Was she rich?" "No—she didn't bring him a dollar." "Very pretty, then, I suppose?" "Oh, no, rather plain." "Highly intellectual?" "No, no. Not above the average; but I tell you she's a woman in a million. In fact she's a jewel, and you can bet he'll be happy." "What's her strong point?" "She knows how to cook!"

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